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4-H...

...Extension's investment in the future

4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state land-grant universities, and county governments.

Extension was established to educate—to interpret and encourage the practical use of the knowledge that comes out of scientific research. Its name came from its mission to “extend” this knowledge to the public.

Today it is still an agency for change, stressing education for action through organization and leadership by local citizens.

When it was set up in 1914, Extension served mostly farm families in rural America. But its assignment then, as now, was to disseminate useful information “to all the people.” Today, Extension and its 4-H programs serve America in towns, cities, and rural areas, with information on agriculture, home economics, community development, and related subjects.

Extension 4-H work is conducted locally by “county agents,” “home economists,” and “4-H youth agents.” They plan youth programs with advisory committees of local community leaders, in line with local needs. Since needs vary, programs may differ across the Nation. In many places, paraprofessionals help agents with volunteers and 4-H groups.

4-H welcomes everyone to participate, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

On January 24, 1978, four USDA agencies—Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), Extension Service (ES), and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) merged into a new organization, the Science and Education Administration (SEA), U.S. Department of Agriculture. This publication was prepared by the Science and Education Administration, Extension, which was formerly Extension Service.

What is 4-H?

Today's 4-H program is for all youth—rural and urban—from all racial, cultural, economic, and social backgrounds. It reaches girls and boys in a variety of ways: as members of organized 4-H clubs, as participants in special interest groups, as enrollees in short-term projects. It reaches them through television, camping and other educational methods; and in programs planned to meet specific needs of youth and the communities where they live. Girls and boys “learn by doing” in 4-H.



Youth learn about bicycle care, repair, and safety.

Learning to work together at a nutrition day camp.

Where is 4-H?

4-H involves young people everywhere—in big cities and little towns, in the country and in the suburbs, on Indian reservations, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam. Activities are typically conducted in the homes of members or their leaders, in schools, or in other community buildings.

Youth organizations in more than 80 countries around the world have adapted the 4-H idea. Opportunities for individual, club, community, state, national, and international projects and activities are available through 4-H.

A farm-city exchange is a good way to explore and make new friends.



Guatemalan youth salute the "4-S" flag which stands for "health," "to know," "feeling," and "to serve," in Spanish.

4-H projects— many and varied

Today's 4-H gives young people an opportunity to take an active part in learning about and solving problems that face them and their communities. These include problems of environment, health, and the use of drugs. Members participate in projects that give them knowledge of science, agriculture, home economics, personal development, community service, leadership, and citizenship. Often this knowledge helps open the door to a future career. But the main purpose of 4-H is to help youth become effective citizens.



Teenage 4-H'ers enjoy learning from and helping senior citizens.

4-H'ers initiate health care programs, including eye testing.



Young people can study aerospace through 4-H.

Some of the 4-H projects most popular with youth are: food-nutrition, clothing, home improvement, home grounds beautification, health, safety, and leadership. New projects range from aerospace to theatrics and karate.

In rural areas, many 4-H members work with livestock, crops, poultry, forestry, marketing, and farm machinery. Both girls and boys learn new farming methods, do experimental research, and have fun in the process.

Popular with city, suburban, and rural young people alike are projects in community development, electricity, environmental protection and conservation, home gardening, photography, public speaking, woodworking, entomology, small engines, grooming, and personal development. Older girls and boys find satisfaction and challenge in projects in automotive care and safety, career studies, money management, consumer education, and leadership.

Flexibility is the key to today's 4-H projects—flexibility in the kinds of learning offered, and in the variety and size of projects. For instance, one of the fastest growing is a horse project for youth who don't own horses!



Through 4-H, young women and men get practical experience in automotive upkeep and safety.



The care and feeding of a living thing instills responsibility and pride in young people.

*Early 4-H Extension
youth work consisted
primarily of corn clubs
for boys...*



*...and canning
clubs for girls.*



How 4-H reaches youth

4-H is organized in different ways, for different needs, in different places. Organization may take the form of:

- Community or Neighborhood 4-H clubs
- Project Clubs
- Special Interest Groups
- Television Teaching
- 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Special Activities.

Young people may take part through any or all of these.

Community or neighborhood clubs

The community or neighborhood 4-H club is associated with an area known to local people, such as a crossroads, a small village, a township, a section of a suburban community, a city block or blocks, or a housing complex. The number of 4-H members in a club may range from 5 or 6 to more than 100. This type of 4-H club continues from year to year. Usually both girls and boys belong to the club, enrolling in projects according to their interests.

Project clubs

In many states, 4-H is organized on a "project club" basis. Young people are encouraged to form these clubs for a year or less. Examples include project clubs for garden, clothing, dairy, automotive, horse, tractor, small engine, etc. These 4-H clubs vary in number of members from 5 or 6 to 50 or more. The 4-H project club territory may range from a neighborhood cluster of a few families, or a city block, to two or three towns, or an entire county. In many counties, members of community or neighborhood 4-H clubs may belong to a larger area 4-H project club. Teenagers especially like this system.



Study of their home community helps 4-H'ers plan to make it a better place to live.

Youth in community clubs learn basic skills.





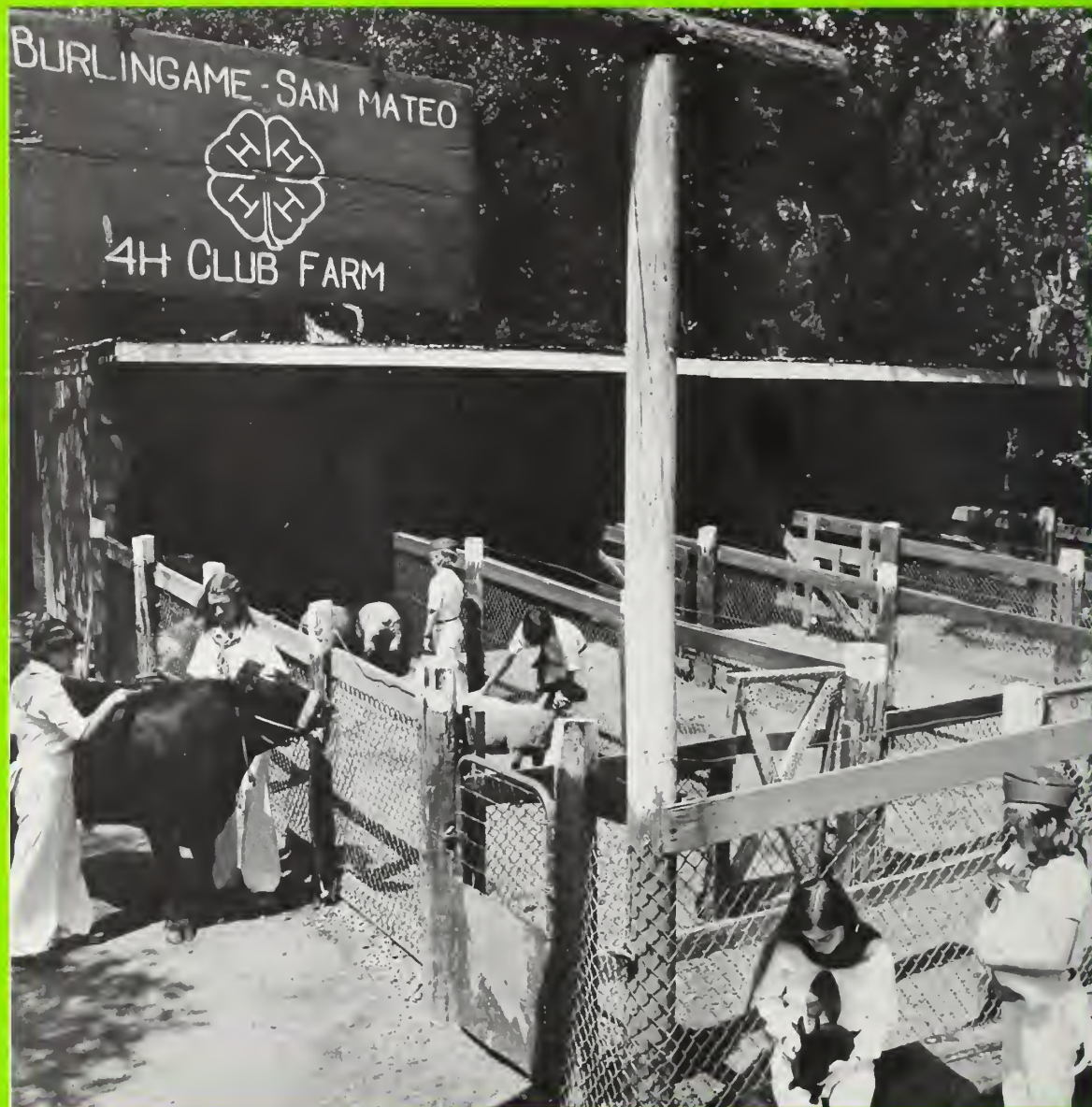
*Getting to know
yourself and others in a
group.*



*Projects may fit a large
farm or a small
apartment equally well.*



Members learn to help and depend on others in specialized project groups.



Youth with common interests band together to share equipment and ideas.

Special interest groups

Here the subjects taught depend on the special interests and ages of girls and boys, related to the needs of their community. Young people may take part in this kind of intensive short-term group if they do not wish to be members of a 4-H club. They may get training in bicycle safety, health, first aid, firefighting, or for jobs in local businesses.



A common interest gathers a group.

Television teaching

In the late 1950's a State Cooperative Extension Service produced the first 4-H TV series. That series of 13 half-hour programs about electricity was designed for 9- to 11-year-olds. Since then, several states have developed and shared 4-H TV. Television films or video tapes and educational materials for members and leaders are used in groups or individually. Many have been programmed through school systems. More than 6 million youth enrolled in "Mulligan Stew," the 4-H nutrition television programs.



Television brings a 4-H experience to school.

4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

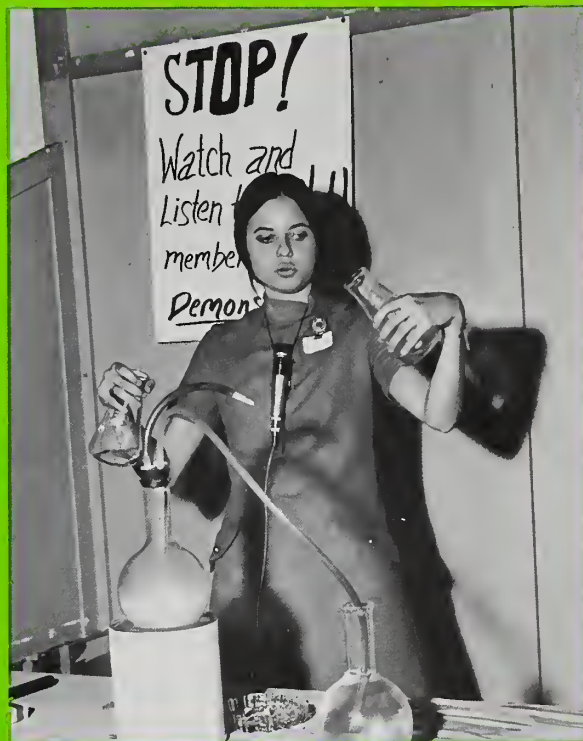
Extension strongly emphasizes working with youth through 4-H EFNEP programs, primarily in the disadvantaged areas of our Nation's cities. Extension staff work through volunteer local leaders, reaching about 800,000 youth per year. The EFNEP program centers on the principles of nutrition, diets, use of foods, and personal development. 4-H EFNEP teaching is usually done in informal groups, using methods such as educational games, camps, tours, films, and television.

Special activities

Special educational activities often supplement 4-H programs. These include tours; 4-H junior and teen leader training workshops; achievement programs; camps; state conferences; seminars; recreational leadership training; share-the-fun festivals; exhibitions, fairs, and shows; project training meetings; and career exploration.

Two national events are held for 4-H members each year. The largest is the National 4-H Congress, held in the late fall in Chicago, to recognize about 2,000 state, sectional, and national winners. The National 4-H Conference, held each spring at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., involves 250 4-H'ers in developing national 4-H programs.

Groups and individual 4-H'ers take part in special activities as they gain experience and can benefit from them.



4-H'ers both teach and learn through member demonstrations.



Sports events can be a 4-H special activity.

Volunteer leaders

Volunteer leaders are vital to Extension programs. Extension agents and 4-H leaders target the problems they want to work on. The agents, and sometimes paraprofessionals, train the leaders. Leaders in turn teach youth groups. This way, volunteer leaders extend and multiply the teaching skill and knowledge of the limited number of professional Extension workers.



A volunteer leader may head a project group, such as this one for study of marine science, on a year-round basis or for a few days.



Agents extend their knowledge through training adult and teen volunteers.

Public and private support

4-H is financed by approximately \$115,000,000 annually from federal, state, and local governments, and by an estimated additional \$25,000,000 from county and state private sources. Private support for 4-H at the national level is \$7,000,000. Thirty-eight states now have 4-H foundations or development funds, some of which have fund-raising goals in excess of \$1,000,000. More than 200 of the Nation's top corporations contribute to 4-H annually.

The National 4-H Foundation and the National 4-H Service Committee—the two national organizations which have provided channels for private support to the 4-H program—have been unified as the National 4-H Council. The Council is teamed with Extension to advance 4-H work.

Teenage 4-H'ers exchange ideas with corporate executives during the annual National 4-H Congress.



4-H state and county staff attend workshops at the National 4-H Center.

For more about 4-H

Your county Extension agent can give you information about the 4-H program in your community. Or you may write to the Cooperative Extension Service of your state land-grant university listed below, or to the Science and Education Administration — Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Alabama—Auburn University, Auburn 36830
Alaska—University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701
Arizona—University of Arizona, Tucson 85721
Arkansas—P.O. Box 391, Little Rock 72203
California—University of California, 2200 University Ave., Berkeley 94720
Colorado—Colorado State University, Fort Collins 80521
Connecticut—University of Connecticut, Storrs 06268
Delaware—University of Delaware, Newark 19711
District of Columbia—University of the District of Columbia, 1331 H St. NW, Washington 20005
Florida—University of Florida, Gainesville 32601
Georgia—University of Georgia, Athens 30601
Guam—University of Guam, P.O. Box EK, Agana 96910
Hawaii—University of Hawaii, Honolulu 96822
Idaho—University of Idaho, Morrill Hall, Moscow 83843
Illinois—University of Illinois, Urbana 61801
Indiana—Purdue University, Lafayette 47907
Iowa—Iowa State University, Ames 50010
Kansas—Kansas State University, Manhattan 66506
Kentucky—University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506
Louisiana—Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 70803
Maine—University of Maine, Orono 04473

Maryland—University of Maryland, College Park 20742
Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts, Amherst 01002
Michigan—Michigan State University, East Lansing 48823
Minnesota—University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55101
Mississippi—Mississippi State University, Mississippi State 39762
Missouri—University of Missouri, 309 University Hall, Columbia 65201
Montana—Montana State University, Bozeman 59715
Nebraska—University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68503
Nevada—University of Nevada, Reno 89507
New Hampshire—University of New Hampshire, Taylor Hall, Durham 03824
New Jersey—Rutgers—The State University, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick 08903
New Mexico—New Mexico State University, Las Cruces 88001
New York—N.Y. State College of Agriculture, Ithaca 14853
North Carolina—North Carolina State University, Raleigh 27607
North Dakota—North Dakota State University, Fargo 58102
Ohio—Ohio State University, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus 43210
Oklahoma—Oklahoma State University, Stillwater 74074

Oregon—Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331
Pennsylvania—The Pennsylvania State University, University Park 16802
Puerto Rico—University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras 00928
Rhode Island—University of Rhode Island, Kingston 02881
South Carolina—Clemson University, Clemson 29631
South Dakota—South Dakota State University, Brookings 57006
Tennessee—University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37901
Texas—Texas A&M University, College Station 77843
Utah—Utah State University, Logan 84321
Vermont—University of Vermont, Burlington 05401
Virginia—Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg 24061
Virgin Islands—P.O. Box L, Kingsthill, St. Croix 00850
Washington—Washington State University, Pullman 99163
West Virginia—West Virginia University, 294 Coliseum, Morgantown 26506
Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin, 432 North Lake St., Madison 53706
Wyoming—University of Wyoming, Box 3354 Univ. Station, Laramie 82070



Creative leisure.



Training for a career.

**In 4-H...
it's kids
that count!**



Safety can be fun.



4-H Pledge: I Pledge:
 My HEAD to clearer thinking,
 My HEART to greater loyalty,
 My HANDS to larger service, and
 My HEALTH to better living,
 for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Colors: Green and White.

4-H Motto: To make the best better.

4-H Emblem: Green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaf.
 The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

The SEA-Extension, United States Department of Agriculture,
offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race,
color, sex, religion, age, national origin, or handicap; and is
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